

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 8(b),
RULE I (SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE) OF
THE HOUSE RULES**

(Proposed Amendment in bold)

8. (a) The Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair. Except as specified in paragraph (b), such an appointment may not extend beyond three legislative days.

(b)(1) In the case of his illness, the Speaker may appoint a Member to perform the duties of the Chair for a period not exceeding 10 days, subject to the approval of the House. If the Speaker is absent and has omitted to make such an appointment, then the House shall elect a Speaker pro tempore to act during the absence of the Speaker.

(2) With the approval of the House, the Speaker may appoint a Member to act as Speaker pro tempore only to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for a specified period of time.

(3)(A) In the case of a vacancy in the office of Speaker, the next Member on the list described in subdivision (B) shall act as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a Speaker or a Speaker pro tempore. Pending such election the Member acting as Speaker pro tempore may exercise such authorities of the Office of Speaker as may be necessary and appropriate to that end.

(B) As soon as practicable after his election and whenever he deems appropriate thereafter, the Speaker shall lay before the House a complete list of the Members of the House in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under subdivision (A).

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation, which I believe takes historic and long overdue steps to improve the coordination of Federal agencies in protecting the United States against catastrophic terrorism and our borders against many other diverse threats.

I rise as the Chairman of the Drug Policy Subcommittee and one of the co-chairs of the Speaker's Task Force on a Drug Free America to specifically address Section 878 of this legislation, which is a provision to create a Counternarcotics Officer. I originally included this provision as an amendment in the Government Reform Committee with bipartisan support from the Gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the Gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I also would like to thank Speaker HASTERT, Chairman ARMEY, and Senator GRASSLEY, who sponsored a nearly identical provision in the other body, for their strong support of this concept as the legislation has moved ahead.

Many of the agencies that will be transferred to the new Department of Homeland Security are also our Nation's preeminent agencies for the interdiction of illegal drugs. The creation of the new Department, therefore, provides a unique opportunity to greatly enhance the operational coordination between these agencies and our efforts to keep drugs out of the United States. It also presents the risk, however, that these critical missions will be made of lesser importance and that resources will be

allocated away from drug interdiction to deal with catastrophic terrorism. While some flexibility in this regard is appropriate, we cannot allow our efforts at drug interdiction to falter when almost 20,000 Americans die each year of drug-related causes and as we have increasingly seen the ties between the drug trade and financing for catastrophic terrorism.

To address these concerns, Section 878 of the bill will establish a counternarcotics officer at a senior level to coordinate policy and operations within the Department and between the Department and other agencies on drug interdiction. The officer will also be charged with ensuring the adequacy of resources within the Department for drug interdiction, and tracking and severing connections between terrorism and the drug trade for the purposes of the Department of Homeland Security.

As the author of this provision, I want to address two important points of legislative intent. First I want to reiterate, as I said in the earlier floor debate on this legislation, that it is my intention that the person appointed to this position must be a senior official within the Department with the authority to ensure the efficient conduct of the interdiction mission. We had originally designated this position as an Assistant Secretary position. After discussion with the Administration that designation was removed, but I want to make clear my intention that the appointee to this position should have a similar level of seniority and authority in order to make and enforce effective policy between the diverse agencies that will be headquartered in the new Department. I would also like to make clear my intention that the official designated under this provision should not be a "dual-hatted" appointee who has other responsibilities or obligations within the Department, nor should they be affiliated with any of the component organizations of the new Department. The clear intention of this provision is to provide a single, neutral, official who will concentrate solely on ensuring effective drug interdiction and acting as a broker and arbiter between different agencies within the Department.

Second, I would like to briefly address a couple of concerns that were raised today by the Office of National Drug Control Policy with respect to the provision that the Counternarcotics Officer will serve as the United States Interdiction Coordinator for the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. That position is an advisory position to the Director with respect to national coordination of drug interdiction activities. The USIC is appointed by the Director, but in the past the job customarily has been filled by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. This provision of the bill was necessary in order to provide the "clear lines of authority" which the President just yesterday said were so important to have in Homeland Security matters.

Within the Department of Homeland Security, the official provided for in Section 878 of the bill will be responsible for coordinating the activities of all department agencies on drug interdiction, including the Coast Guard. The USIC position needed to be addressed to ensure consistency and harmony on drug interdiction issues. It would have been completely illogical to have the Commandant report to the narcotics coordinator within the Department, but then have the coordinator report to the Commandant for the purposes of the National Drug Control Strategy. Because the counter-

narcotics officer is intended to have broad and more sweeping responsibilities in this area, the intention is simply to have the counternarcotics official assume the role as USIC, and I believe this is the only sensible outcome.

I want to stress that this is in no way intended as any reflection on the Coast Guard, for which I have extremely high regard both in this particular area and in general, or the current or past Commandants, who have provided outstanding service as USICs. It is necessary incident to the reorganization of the interdiction agencies within the new Department, which I believe provides us with a significant opportunity to enhance our overall national effort. President Bush has clearly stated that Homeland Security should not be about "turf" or the prerogatives of individual agencies or government officials but instead about improving how we keep Americans safe. This provision was included in that spirit, and I believe that it ought to be embraced in that spirit by the Coast Guard and will be embraced in the finest traditions of "Semper Paratus".

Director Walters made me aware, however, of some concerns which I agree merit careful consideration in the future. The USIC has been a senior advisor to the Director and ONDCP, and the statutory designation of the Homeland Security counternarcotics officer in that role within ONDCP removes the prerogative of the Drug Czar to appoint his own senior advisor. I am sensitive to this concern. I did not consider it in drafting the amendment simply because the Director has customarily and routinely named the Commandant of the Coast Guard to the position in the past, and my intention was to make a direct substitution. I want to make clear as the author of this amendment and as Chairman of the authorizing Subcommittee for ONDCP that it is not intended in any way to diminish the Director's authority over his office. I also continue to believe, however, that the USIC post must adapt to reflect the structure that has now been created within the Department of Homeland Security, and thus will not attempt at this late hour to revise the language in the bill. I will, however, revisit this issue as we consider reauthorization of ONDCP in the next Congress to try to develop a better formulation that will address each of these concerns.

NELSON MARTINEZ DEPARTS
KOAT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding New Mexican, journalist and entertainer, Nelson Martinez. He will be leaving KOAT-TV, where he has worked for nearly two decades, to pursue other professional opportunities in early December.

Born in Chimay[oacute] and raised in northern New Mexico, Mr. Martinez has enjoyed a multi-faceted career of more than 35 years in the broadcast business, as a radio disc jockey, worldwide videotape editor, reporter and news anchor. New Mexicans are always so proud to see one of their own scale grand heights, as he has.